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JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" May I know what is the general policy of Government with regard to assignment of political land?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I am not aware of any land classified as "political land." (Laughter.)

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" I mean assignment of land to political sufferers."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think there is a Government Order about it."

Collection of rent by the landholders from their ryots.

* 47 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the landholders have represented to the Government that, since the passing of the Rent Reduction Act and the Zamindari Abolition Act, they are finding it difficult to collect rents from their ryots;

(*b*) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government to ensure due payment of rents;

(*c*) whether the landholders have not been able to pay peshkash and the cesses due to the Government;

(*d*) what the amounts of peshkash and cesses are for fasli 1357 and thereafter and what the actual receipts are (fasliwar);

(*e*) whether the question of Government themselves undertaking the collection of rents has ever been considered;

(*f*) whether, in respect of estates proposed to be taken over, the Government intend collecting all arrears of rent due from the ryots and pay the balance to landholders after deducting the peshkash and cesses due to the Government;

(*g*) if the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, whether, in respect of estates where reduction of rents has been notified and such reduction becomes effective from fasli 1357, there will not be a corresponding reduction in peshkash and cesses;

(*h*) whether the Government have made good to local bodies the amounts in respect of cesses due and if so, what the amounts paid are; and

(*i*) whether the Government have any definite plan in regard to rents due from ryots, method of their collection and other cognate matters?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes. Some landholders have made representations to the Government to that effect.

" (*b*) In March 1948, after consultation with certain representative landholders, the Government issued a Press Communique advising the ryots to pay 75 per cent of the rents to landholders which the latter had agreed to take. A similar Press

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Communique was issued in May 1949. The Government understand that there was some improvement in the situation as a result of these Press Communiques.

"(*c*) The landholders have not been able to pay peishkash and cesses due to Government *in full*.

"(*d*) The amounts of peishkash and cesses due and the receipts in fasli 1357 and 1358 are as follows :—

Fasli.			Demand.	
			Peishkash.	Cesses.
			RS.	RS.
1357	..	..	47,35,659	46,59,447
1358	..	..	46,99,059	46,44,998

Fasli.			Collection.	
			Peishkash.	Cesses.
			RS.	RS.
1357	..	..	31,55,393	23,70,165
1358	..	..	15,49,849	11,24,228

"(*e*), (*f*) & (*i*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the provisions of section 3 (4) of the Rent Reduction Act and section 55 of the Abolition Act. Cesses will however not be deducted from the collections made under section 55 of the Abolition Act.

"(*g*) Government have considered the question and they have decided that no refund of peshkash is called for. As regards cesses, however, since they are based on actual collections of rent and as the rents will be reduced under the Rent Reduction Act, there will be a corresponding reduction in cesses.

"(*h*) There is no proposal to pay compensation to local bodies for loss of income under land or education cess consequent on the reduction of rents."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—"May I know when Government expect to completely take over the zamindari estates under the Zaminadri Abolition Act?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"I cannot give any definite date. But I would call the attention of the hon. Member to the statement made by Government that they expect to finish the completion of the taking over within a year."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether some of the zamindars have asked Government to take over their estates first owing to their financial difficulties?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"I would suggest to such zamindars to write to Government asking them that their estates should be taken over, and then Government will consider their request."

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SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know how many such applications have been received so far? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I believe a few such applications have been received. They are not many."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether Government will take over those estates first? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It all depends upon the number of such applications we get and the area from which they come."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the collection of cess amount has come down in 1358 fasli to Rs. 11,24,228 are not Government aware that the present position of the local bodies existing in those estates is such that they must have suffered considerably, and if so, what steps the Government have taken to rehabilitate those local bodies? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Those local bodies must have suffered financially, because there is less of collection there. But as to the question of help to them, that is a matter which has to be examined when local bodies take it up with the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO.—" May I know whether Government have received any such representations from such local bodies? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I would request the hon. Member to put a separate question." 11-30 p.m.

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the arrears will be deducted from the amount of compensation to be paid to the zamindars? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, the question relates to the collection of arrears of rents due from the tenants to the zamindar, and it was asked whether out of the collection of these arrears, the Government are entitled to the peishkash amount. There is no question of any reduction from the compensation amount at all."

Proposal to close rice mills.

* 48 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the rice mills in the selected areas are proposed to be closed with a view to encourage consumption of hand-pounded rice; and

(b) if so, whether any scheme to encourage hand-pounded rice is ready?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."